

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /069 W

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R 231105Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7221

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1547

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, LA, TH

SUBJ: THAI-LAO RELATIONS

REF: A) BANGKOK 1543 B) BANGKOK 1431

1. DURING CHARGE'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN JANUARY 22, CHATCHAI VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING ON HIS TALK EARLIER THE SAME DAY WITH LAOTIAN DEPUTY CULTURAL MINISTER, OUNHEUANE PHOUSAVATH, WHO IS IN BANGKOK IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPEARANCE OF A TROOP OF LAOTIAN DANCERS AT THE ASIAN ART AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL.

2. PHOUNSAVATH HAD EXPRESSED THE WISH OF THE LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. HE HAD AGREED TO THE CONTINUED FUNCTIONING OF THE EXISTING (RECENTLY DORMANT) THAI-LAOTIAN BORDER COMMITTEE AND ITS FOUR SUB-COMMITTEES: ECONOMIC/ TECHNICAL COOPERATION; SOCIAL/CULTURAL RELATIONS; TRANSPORTATION; AND BORDER PROBLEMS.

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3. CHARGE NOTED THAT THE BORDER HAD BEEN OPENED AT ONLY ONE

OR TWO POINTS AND ASKED WHETHER, AS A RESULT OF PHOUNSAVATH'S VISIT, THERE WAS ANY CHANGE IN THIS SITUATION. CHATCHAI REPLIED THAT THE DETAILS OF FURTHER BORDER OPENINGS WOULD BE DISCUSSED DURING A VISIT HE WOULD MAKE TO VIENTIANE FEBRUARY 3-4 AS AGREED WITH PHOUNSAVATH.

4. COMMENT: FOLLOWING CHATCHAI'S TALK WITH PHOUNSAVATH, MFA SPOKESMAN NISSAI ANNOUNCED, AS QUOTED BY THE BANGKOK POST, THAT CHATCHAI WAS "FREE TO VISIT VIENTIANE DURING FEBRUARY 3-5 IF HIS VISIT IS WELCOMED". WE THINK THIS MORE ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE STATE OF PLAY; CHATCHAI IS AVAILABLE BUT HAS PROBABLY NOT YET GOT A FIRM ACCEPTANCE FROM THE LAO. MASTERS

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